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Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW
DISTRIBUTES \$1 MILLION SCHOOL VOUCHERS IN
SETTLEMENT WITH MICROSOFT**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw announced today the final distribution of one million dollars in "Quick Start" school vouchers earmarked for West Virginia schools pursuant to the terms of the settlement entered into in the case of State ex rel. McGraw v. Microsoft. These vouchers can be used by eligible county school systems for the purchase of any Microsoft or nonMicrosoft computer hardware and software equipment. The distribution of the vouchers was based upon a formula in the settlement determined by the number students in each school which received free or reduced lunches.

These vouchers are part of the settlement with Microsoft in which Microsoft paid cash and vouchers to the State. Microsoft has already paid the state \$1.3 million in cash, and will distribute another \$8.9 million in vouchers to eligible schools in the State. A previous part of the settlement distributed vouchers directly to damaged individuals and businesses in West Virginia.

The settlement with Microsoft received final approval from the Boone County Circuit Court in early 2004, and became final last November.

"I'm glad that this settlement will not only help consumers and businesses, but our school children, as well," said Attorney General McGraw. "This settlement will help place computers and software in schools where they are needed the most."

Attorney General McGraw expects the final \$8.8 million in school vouchers to become available near the end of this year. The school certification process is under way by the settlement administrator

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